

First In - Last Out

March 21, 2011

On November 6, 2010, the Stayner Heritage Society hosted a very successful event. We were privileged to have as our guest speaker, Glad Bryce, author of the recently published book, "First In-Last Out". This documentary of the Women's Division of the R.C.A.F. serving during World War 11 contains personal stories of these courageous women as well as numerous photos. It has been very well received – especially by Queen Elizabeth, who, after receiving a copy - sent a personal note of congratulations to Glad Bryce!



The author, Glad Bryce, second from the left facing the camera chats with a WW II veteran of the Woman's Division



The Georgian Girls entertained the gathering with a selection of popular songs from the WW II era.

Well over 175 people were treated to a continental breakfast, the Georgian Girls and their medley of war-time songs, and, of course, Glad Bryce with her very emotional and thought-provoking presentation. We were also very pleased to have with us several members of the Women's Division who served during WW11, as well present day Air Force personnel.

About the Book



This book is first and foremost, the story of the contribution of women to the success of the Canadian Armed Forces during the Second World War. It is filled with the history of the WDs from them being admitted to the RCAF as the Canadian Women's Auxiliary Air Force (renamed the RCAF, Women's Division in 1942) to the end of WW II. But perhaps the most interesting part of the book are the interviews with the veterans themselves where they tell their own personal stories. Many of the photos in the book were from the albums of the women interviewed.



An illustration from the book showing the Women's Division volunteers taking Drill Instruction.

The author writes: *"These were willingly shared for the purpose of getting their stories told. The honest, sense of fun, and willingness to share their innermost thoughts make for thought-provoking reading. Without these women who took on the work traditionally done by men, we would not be living in a free Canada today. The war years produced many new and innovative paths for women to follow, and the way in which the WDs met the challenges of Serving So Men Could May Fly deserves everlasting gratitude."*

For information on purchasing this book please email: glad@muskoka.com



Nursing Sisters relaxing between shifts. Note the helmets close at hand.